

women in critical STEM fields. Many women report leaving promising careers in academic research altogether due to sexual harassment. Women of color are even more likely to experience sexual harassment and to feel unsafe at work. We cannot afford—morally, scientifically, or economically—to continue to lose these skilled scientists and engineers, particularly from groups that are already underrepresented in STEM.

As recommended in the landmark report by the National Academies entitled *Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine*, this bill establishes a National Science Foundation program to support research into the factors contributing to sexual harassment in the scientific workforce, as well as the collection of data on the prevalence of sexual harassment in STEM. Furthermore, this bill directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy to issue uniform policy guidelines to Federal science agencies to ensure every agency has clear policies and dedicated resources to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual harassment at academic institutions receiving federal research funding. It also creates an interagency working group to improve coordination and communication among agencies.

It is my hope that this legislation will build upon progress already made by the National Science Foundation and other agencies over the last few years. In 2018, the Foundation updated its award terms and conditions to ensure the agency is alerted of findings of sexual harassment or administrative actions taken against NSF-funded researchers during the course of an investigation. It is vital that agencies and grantees, as stewards of Federal money, take seriously their responsibility to foster a healthy working environment as they train the next generation of scientists. It is encouraging that other agency heads have taken steps to address sexual harassment in research. Following NSF's lead, the National Institutes of Health instituted a similar update to its grant rules. The approach must be coordinated to minimize confusion and burden for institutions and researchers.

I also credit Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, former OSTP Director, for his commitment to this issue. In his testimony to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology last year, Dr. Droegemeier reported that the Joint Committee on Research Environments (JCORE) Subcommittee on Safe and Inclusive Environments was compiling a comprehensive inventory of Federal agency policies and practices targeted at addressing all forms of harassment in the research environment, with the intent to identify best practices and develop a coordinated Federal action plan. I urge the current administration to make this a priority. These resources are urgently needed.

Scientific societies, universities, national laboratories, and those in leadership positions across the scientific enterprise also play an important role in combating sexual harassment in the sciences. I am pleased that my legislation is endorsed by 23 scientific societies and student organizations. In developing this bill, feedback from university associations and scientific societies has been invaluable, and it is encouraging that so many key players are committed to addressing sexual harassment in science.

This legislation supports a coordinated evidence-based approach to addressing the

problem of sexual harassment at research universities and funds research that will serve as the foundation for future initiatives in this area.

I urge the rest of my colleagues to join us and help move this legislation forward into law.

JUAN ARREDONDO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Juan Arredondo for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Juan Arredondo is a 12th grader at Vantage Point High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Juan Arredondo is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Juan Arredondo for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOREN AND ELOUISE SUTTON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 65th wedding anniversary of Reverend Loren C. and Elouise Sutton who were married on June 8, 1956.

Rev. Sutton serves as Pastor Emeritus and Senior Pastor at Airview Church of God in Opelika, Alabama.

The Suttons were blessed with four children, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Loren and Elouise and wishing them a happy 65th wedding anniversary.

THOMAS JEFFERSON DAY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birthday.

As our third President, a Founding Father, and the main author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson was a formative voice in our nascent American democracy. Jefferson championed the ideas of religious tolerance, human rights, and liberty for

all. He considered democracy, along with a free press and robust public education system, to be the embodiment of a thriving, successful society. These indelible notions continue to be fundamental to our country today.

On his 278th birthday, I extend my deepest thanks and respect to Thomas Jefferson for his commitment to the ideals of democracy and his stringent belief in the strength of the United States of America.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
WAGE AND ECONOMIC STABILITY  
ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Northern Mariana Islands Wage and Economic Stability Act. This legislation delays for 18 months, in the Marianas only, any national increase in the federal minimum wage that Congress may enact. My bill, also, requires a Government Accountability Office report on the economic impact in the Marianas of such a national wage increase.

Unlike the rest of our nation, where minimum wage has been static, the minimum wage in the Marianas has more than doubled over recent years to reach the federal level of \$7.25.

These substantial increases have made life better for thousands of Marianas families and encouraged more U.S. workers to enter the workforce.

But I had to carefully time those increases year-by-year with legislation and based on the help of Government Accountability Office reports to ensure—successfully—that wages went up without jeopardizing jobs.

Economic conditions in the Marianas remain separate from the national situation. Whereas Gross Domestic Product rose nationally in 2019, in the Marianas GDP plunged 11.2 percent that year. That decline came after a 19.3 percent decrease in 2018. And it is reasonable to expect the picture in the Marianas for 2020 will be no better. Our tourism-based economy will remain dormant until the pandemic has passed. Meanwhile, nationally, we expect growth on the order of 6 percent this year.

My point is simply this: If we are going to raise the wage in the Marianas—and, believe me, I do—then we must do it as we did before: with a close eye on the economic conditions in the islands. They are vastly different than conditions in the nation as a whole.

Again, I fully support raising the minimum wage in our country—I want workers to earn more.

I believe the best way to accomplish that goal in the insular area I represent, however, is through my legislation, the Northern Mariana Islands Wage and Economic Stability Act. My bill will give Congress the analytical tools and the time to consider how best to schedule wage increases in the Marianas to improve the lives of workers and their families, while ensuring the businesses employing those workers can thrive.